

- e) determining if at least one of the revenue, number of shares sold, and total size of shares sold exceeds the first threshold;
 - f) based at least in part on the determining in step e), causing a prior art search report to be drafted on the first invention;
 - g) establishing a second threshold different than the first threshold;
 - h) determining if at least one of the revenue, number of shares sold, and total size of shares sold exceeds the second threshold; and
 - i) based at least in part on the determining in step h), causing a patent application to be drafted on the first invention.
- 15.** The method as claimed in claim **14**, wherein step c) comprises selling the plurality of shares by auction.

- 16.** The method as claimed in claim **14**, further comprising: publishing at least one of the prior art search report and the patent application; and offering to purchase at least some of the shares sold in step c).
- 17.** The method as claimed in claim **16**, further comprising: causing a patent to issue on the invention; collecting profit on the patent; and distributing the profit based at least in part on the plurality of shares sold.
- 18.** The method as claimed in claim **14**, further comprising: providing users a preference indicator with which to express preference for an invention; and publishing a preference indicator rating of the inventions based on preference indications by the users.

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